

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for certifying that e-mail sent from a computer is free from viruses identified by an anti-virus database, the method comprising:
scanning an e-mail for viruses before the e-mail is sent from the computer;
attaching a certificate identifying the e-mail as being scanned for viruses if no viruses are found during scanning; and
sending the e-mail with the certificate from the computer to a recipient computer;
wherein the certificate includes a link to a web site describing the virus scanning performed on the e-mail by including a type and a version of a virus scanner utilized in scanning the e-mail for viruses, in addition to information for reading a digital signature added to the e-mail if no viruses are found;

wherein the computer is a network server;

wherein attaching the certificate comprises attaching the certificate at the server;

wherein the virus scanner is incorporated within a mail application that is utilized in creating the e-mail.

2. (Cancelled)

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3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein scanning the e-mail for viruses comprising scanning attachments contained within the e-mail.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein scanning the e-mail comprises automatically scanning the e-mail after a user sends the e-mail.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the computer is connected to the Internet.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the e-mail at a recipient computer.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising reading the digital signature with a digital signature verification application at the recipient computer and verifying that the e-mail has not been tampered with.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein scanning the e-mail for viruses comprises scanning the e-mail for viruses at the server.

14. – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system for certifying that e-mail sent from a computer is free from viruses identified by an anti-virus database, the system comprising:
an anti-virus application operable to scan e-mails;
a certification application operable to add a certificate to the e-mail identifying the e-mail as being scanned for viruses if no viruses are found during scanning; and
a storage medium configured to store the anti-virus database for use by the anti-virus application;

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wherein the certificate includes a link to a web site describing the virus scanning performed on the e-mail by including a type and a version of the anti-virus application utilized in scanning the e-mail for viruses, in addition to information for reading a digital signature added to the e-mail if no viruses are found;

wherein the computer is a network server;

wherein adding the certificate comprises adding the certificate at the server;

wherein the anti-virus application is incorporated within a mail application that is utilized in creating the e-mail.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 further comprising a processor operable to send the e-mail to a recipient computer.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the computer sending the e-mail and the recipient computer are servers located within a computer network.

24. (Cancelled)

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25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A computer product for certifying that e-mail sent from a computer is free from viruses identified by an anti-virus database, the product comprising:

computer code that scans an e-mail for viruses before the e-mail is sent from the computer;

computer code that attaches a certificate identifying the e-mail as being scanned for viruses if no viruses are found during scanning;

computer code that sends the e-mail with the certificate from the computer to a recipient computer; and

a computer readable medium that stores said computer codes;

wherein the certificate includes a link to a web site describing the virus scanning performed on the e-mail by including a type and a version of a virus scanner utilized in scanning the e-mail for viruses, in addition to information for reading a digital signature added to the e-mail if no viruses are found;

wherein the computer is a network server;

wherein attaching the certificate comprises attaching the certificate at the server;

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wherein the virus scanner is incorporated within a mail application that is utilized in creating the e-mail.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer product of claim 27 wherein the computer readable medium is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM, floppy disk, tape, flash memory, system memory, and hard drive.

29. (Original) The computer product of claim 27 further comprising computer code that cleans infected data.

30. – 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the certificate includes a company logo.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the certificate includes an icon.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the e-mail and at least one attachment is scanned for viruses.

SEP. 13. 2005 1:54PM ZILKA-KOTAB, PC

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45. (Cancelled)